

Fri 1/23/2015 10:41 AM

tushar pandya <tusharpandyaus@yahoo.com>

Signatory update from weekend of Jan 18 on letter for applying standards for social content to Hindus and people of Indian heritage.

Dear Dr. Thomas Adams,

This week we collected an additional 384 signatories for our letter to you on the subject of "Treatment of India and Hinduism not in line with the Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content.". **This brings the total signatories collected in the last 2 weeks for this letter to 1004.**

Attached below is the text of the letter and signatory information for your reference. Please let us know if you need to see the scanned signatory sheets. I shall call you to follow-up and confirm that you have received this mail. We are continuing to add signatories to this letter and I shall write to you with an update soon.

Sincerely,
Tushar Pandya
408-945-9099

Below is the letter for "Treatment of India and Hinduism not in line with the Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content." and the Names, Zip codes and City of residences for the 384 signatories from this week.

To,
Thomas Adams, Executive Director
Instructional Quality Commission
Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division (CFIRD) California
Department of Education
1430 N Street, Room 3207
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: hssframework@cde.ca.gov

Sub: Treatment of India and Hinduism not in line with the Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content.

Dear Dr. Thomas Adams,

We are writing as Hindu residents of California. We are concerned that the existing account of Hinduism in all the current California approved social science text-books is wanting in accuracy, authenticity and sensitivity. With regard to India, this draft Framework prepared by your predecessors does not reflect the input of experts on India or Hinduism, nor of the community itself.

The core problem we face is both curricular and pedagogical. The treatment of India and Hinduism in California schools is a case study in essentialism, the reduction of a complex historical narrative to a single, supposedly defining aspect—caste. Neither the Standards nor the Narrative offers specifics to address the multifaceted Hindu understanding of God, Gods and worship. Each leaves those details to the textbook writers to address or not. Without proper guidelines for discussing the religion, the one topic of caste dominates the texts, distorts the presentation of Hindu philosophy and leaves no room for any substantive description of the religion itself. The California textbooks do not present Hinduism as a living faith in a historically accurate manner. The result is that our children leave the sixth grade social studies classes on Hinduism ashamed of their religion and Indian heritage, bullied and taunted by some of their classmates and insecure about their own faith and identity. The fact that there is virtually zero opportunity to talk about Hinduism or India after 6th grade (or before that) reinforces this sense of insecurity through rest of the school experience.

Edward Said defined Orientalism as the colonialist presumption that Europeans are the experts and the peoples they colonized are not qualified to define themselves. The 19th century Orientalist construct of India is this: Invading Aryans subjugated the native population, and Aryan brahmin priests imposed their language, religion and the caste system upon them. These curricular issues are hardly limited to India alone. We find the textbooks perpetuate stereotypical and Oriental perceptions of Asians in general as rather strange and exotic. It is a problem when Schools are used as an apparatus to shape young students' minds with colonial perspectives. In many California communities Asians and Hindus of Indian heritage form a significant part of the community. These practices hurt the self-esteem and emotional well-being of our young Californians.

In order for the textbooks to meet the California state standards for evaluating instructional materials for social content, and the Education Code Sections 51501, 60040(b), and 60044(a) and (b) for ethnic and cultural groups and Religion, investigating how the differences between Asia and the Europe/US are constructed in textbooks is necessary. What kind of perceptions and positions American readers are encouraged to take up with regard to India? The textbooks should not represent Hindu India to inscribe, maintain, and reinforce colonial messages, through how they present and also through the rather ominous omissions of significant contributions and achievements of Hindu-India in world history.

Sincerely,

Full Name	ZIP Code	City of Residence / School District
Balakrishon Kumar	94566	Pleasanton
Shraddha Sharma	94582	San Ramon
Deepak Sharma	94582	San Ramon

Sanjay Patil	94566	Pleasanton
Shetal Chaturvedi	94588	Pleasanton
Susheela Ramaswamy	94582	San Ramon
Sharmila Loganathan	94521	Concord
Loganathan Dillibabu	94521	Concord
Vish Ahuja	94582	San Ramon
Anand Nair	94582	San Ramon
Rajasekhar Gottam	94582	San Ramon
Ashok Kumar	94526	Danville
Ruchi Sharma	94588	Pleasanton
Sneha Kishoronath	94582	San Ramon
Ajay Kumar	94598	Walnut Creek
Kripa Venkatachalam	94582	San Ramon
Ramya Ranganathan	94588	Pleasanton
Prince Arora	94588	Pleasanton
Sumeet Sayal	94539	Fremont
Dhanya Narayanan	94538	Fremont
Anjali I	94536	Fremont
Archana Purohit	94555	Fremont
Latha Gopinath	94555	Fremont
Akanksha Nain	94087	Sunnyvale
Kailashnath Rampuri	94539	Fremont
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Ramnath Rao	95120	San Jose
Nandini Rao	95120	San Jose
Manjula Hullalti	95129	San Jose
Mythili Varadarajan	95120	San Jose
Rajita Dandamraj	94536	Fremont
Chandana Venumuri	94555	Fremont
Aravind Kulkarni	94555	Fremont
Shalini Shyanbhog	94555	Fremont
Ganesh Ranganathan	94555	Fremont
Anu Natarajan	94536	Fremont
Vidya Rajagopalan	94086	Sunnyvale
Venkat Rajaram	95129	San Jose
Bhooma Viswanathan	95124	San Jose
Surabhi Madlnapathy	95120	San Jose
Sangeetha Shankar	95050	Santa Clara
Shankar Ratneshwaran	95050	Santa Clara
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Radhika Tandon	95070	Saratoga
Kanaka Sriram	95070	Saratoga
Sriram Chakrabarthi	95070	Saratoga
Krishna Narayanswamy	95070	Saratoga
Nilakshi Kapil	95035	Milpitas
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Sumedha Desai	95138	San Jose
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Kunal Cholera	94041	Mountain View
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Balaji	94087	Sunnyvale
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Radha Idury	94086	Sunnyvale
Ramya Idury	94086	Sunnyvale
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Roopa Madhnapathy	95120	San Jose
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Sujatha Narayanan	95014	Cupertino
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Krti Tallam	94539	Fremont
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Kanaiya Vasani	95070	Saratoga
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Ravi Ram	95129	Cupertino
Geetha Venkat	95129	Cupertino
Chandra Ranganathan	95135	San Jose
Radha Bala	95148	San Jose
Evelyn Tirumalai	95035	Milpitas
Sujatha Bodepati	95020	Cupertino
Swaminathan Vaidyanathan	95120	San Jose
Kanchana Venkat	94024	Cupertino
Akila Krishnamurthi	94086	Sunnyvale
Ganga Radhakrishnan	95008	Moreland
Anjana Baradwaja	95008	Campbell
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Vani Gangu	95070	Saratoga
Kavindra Saxena	94539	Fremont
Jayarami Reddy	95129	Cupertino
Shreya Narayan	95129	Cupertino
Avani Anne	94025	Menlo Park

Anirudh Venkatraman	95120	San Jose
Archana C	95014	Cupertino
Sanjay Bomwal	95120	San Jose
Sanjay Vadlamani	95127	San Jose
Linga Neerathilingam	95070	San Jose
Siva Sivaram	95014	Cupertino
Divya Venkatraman	95014	Cupertino
Maya Nayak	95135	San Jose
Viren Nathan	95014	Cupertino
Peri Sivaram	95014	Cupertino
Murthy Krishna	94085	Sunnyvale
Radha Athreya	95119	San Jose
Jigar Pandya	94086	Sunnyvale
Archana Kannan	95129	Cupertino
Venkat	95014	Cupertino
Arun Viswanathan	95014	Cupertino
Kris Rajana	95010	Saratoga
Rajesh Shankar	94560	Newark
Raghu Venkat	95014	Cupertino
Geetha Hari	95135	Evergreen
Ram Sripathi	95014	Cupertino
Hemanth Ravi	95070	Saratoga
Simone Ray	95129	San Jose
Meeta Saxena	94539	Fremont
Sanjiv Kapoor	95135	San Jose
Shobhan Mangla	95132	San Jose
Anil Mangla	95131	San Jose
Puja Uppalapati	95129	San Jose
Samika Saxena	94539	Fremont
Darshan Patel	94087	Cupertino
Vijay Kamarshi	95014	Cupertino
Malathi Jivan	95120	San Jose
Jivan Seshan	95120	San Jose
Madhavi Koneru	95070	Saratoga
Nithya Koneru	95070	Saratoga
Sathvik Koneru	95070	Saratoga
Vishy Karra	95129	San Jose
R Shiva	95014	Cupertino
Aruna Mantripragada	95014	Cupertino
Krish Mantripragada	95014	Cupertino
Ishaan Mantripragada	95014	Cupertino

Anika Mantripragada	95014	Cupertino
Kalpesh Kapadia	94301	Palo Alto
Ramkumar Balasubramanian	95131	San Jose
Vasudha Krishnan	95129	San Jose
Geetha Swamy	94087	Cupertino
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Partho Guha	95014	Cupertino
Rajah Kalipatnapu	95121	San Jose
Rajesh Nair	95131	San Jose
Anantha Ramaiah	95136	San Jose
Sreedin Menon	95070	Saratoga
Manju Nair	95070	Saratoga
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Visvanatha Sundararajan	95136	San Jose
Mathangi Sundararajan	95136	San Jose
Rohini Panchapkesan	95129	Cupertino
Rajesh Patel	94539	Fremont
Mihir Patel	94086	Sunnyvale
Surender Goli	94539	Fremont
Ramadevu Goli	94539	Fremont
Pradeep Nad	95051	Santa Clara
Lokesh Bommaka	94555	Fremont
Vani Santhekudlum	94555	Fremont
Mahima Chaudhry	95070	Saratoga
Chitra Krishnan	94539	Fremont
Surbhi Gupta	94538	Fremont
Saurabh Gupta	94538	Fremont
Ashish Parmer	95050	Santa Clara
Rajesh Udani	94086	Sunnyvale
Ezhilarasi Rajendran	94539	Fremont
Usha Sharma	95117	San Jose
Suneetha Argi	95014	Cupertino
Mahesh Chaturvedi	95126	San Jose
Venkamma Bhumakkanavar	94536	Fremont
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Sukrutha R Narellapally	95035	Milpitas
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Ravi Tammineni	94539	Fremont
Padma Tammineni	94539	Fremont

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Priya Vijayaraghavn	94086	Sunnyvale
Neeharika Doddha	95135	Evergreen
Sridevi Valmeekam	94582	San Ramon
Mahidhak Malavathu	94555	Fremont
Swetha Junti	94555	Fremont
Kalpesh Jayakar	94536	Fremont
Harshita Jayaker	94536	Fremont
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Meghana Pawar	95035	Milpitas
Dileep Eduri	94539	Fremont